

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein, which place the application in condition for allowance.

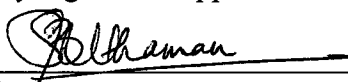
Claims 1, 5, 14, 23, 40 and 84-110 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 14, 23, 40, 84-93 and 96-109 are presently amended; claims 94, 95 and 110 and previously withdrawn claims 27, 30, 34 and 57 are canceled; and claims 111 and 112 are newly added, all without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 5, 14, 23, 40, 84-93 and 96-109 and new claims 111 and 112 may be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed.

No new matter is added.

It is submitted that the claims presented herewith are patentably distinct over the prior art, and these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments to the claims presented were not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these additions are made for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Further to the discussion with Supervisory Examiner Hartley and Examiner Young, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date, and, should any matter remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephonically contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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